

Media Advisory

Unified Command
Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill

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Release #4

Unified Command continues oil spill response in Buzzard's Bay

CAPE COD, Mass. – The Coast Guard, in cooperation with Bouchard Transportation and other federal, state and local agencies and contractors and is continuing today to assess and clean up oil spilled from a barge being towed through Buzzard's Bay en route to Sandwich, Mass., from Philadelphia on Sunday.

A second Bouchard barge tied up alongside the B No. 120 barge Monday afternoon and began pumping oil from the ruptured number two starboard tank Monday night. The pumping is estimated to be complete this evening. Bouchard Transportation plans to move the barge to the Esco fuel terminal in Sandwich, Mass., the Coast Guard has approved the transport plan.

A Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod helicopter with the Federal On Scene Coordinator, a representative from Bouchard and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) senior scientific coordinator conducted a first light assessment of the impact of the oil spill this morning. Shoreline cleanup and assessment teams (SCAT) are locating impacted areas of the shoreline and have begun cleaning impacted areas.

All reports of oil impact areas impacted by the spill are being investigated by Coast Guard, Massachusetts state or contract personnel. Response personnel are containing the spill by:

Protection of Allen Pond, Slocum River and Little River with oil containment boom

Placement of boom at the mouth of Westport Harbor

Protective boom at the mouth of West Falmouth Harbor. Little impact has been reported on the east side of the bay.

The Coast Guard Cutter *Ida Lewis* was released from the scene Monday after skimming was determined to be ineffective. The oil collection system on the *Ida Lewis* is designed to pick up liquid oil, while most of the oil is solidifying.

The *Maine Responder*, a vessel from Portland, Maine, owned by Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) recovered 900 gallons of oil.

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Bouchard Transportation has established a claims support hotline at (800) 995-4045.

Volunteers for shoreline cleanup can call the Coalition for Buzzard's Bay at (508) 999-6363 ext. 207.

Information on impact to fisheries is available at (508) 563-1779 ext. 114.

Volunteers interested in assisting with the wild life effort can call (508) 999-6363.

Statistics as of 2:00 pm April 29, 2003:

- 9 miles of shoreline impacted
- 900 gallons of oil collected
- 70 cubic yards of solid materials (used sorbent pads and other waste)
- 100 people on SCAT teams
- 160 response personnel cleaning shorelines
- 60 people in the Unified Command Post
- 2 sheens with tar balls
 - o 1 is 3 by 3 miles 2 miles south of West Island
 - o Smaller sheen 2 miles west of Nyes Neck at North Falmouth
- Current winds 15-20 miles an hour out of the southwest
- Seas are 4 to 6 feet
- 4500 feet of boom deployed
- Birds
 - o 12 loons being rehabilitated
 - o 4 loons dead
 - o 2 ducks dead
 - o 6 oiled plovers
 - o 2 oiled ducks
 - o 3 oiled loons
 - o 3 oiled gulls